

REMARKS

Claims in the Application. Claims 16, 26, 33, 34, 45, 47-48 and 50-52 have, by this amendment, been cancelled from this application. Claims 1, 17, 23, 27-32, 35, 46, 49 and 53 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-15, 17-25, 27-32, 35, 46, 49 and 53 are active in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Amendment to the Claims. Claims 16, 17 and 23, each of which is dependent on Claim 1, have not been rejected by the Examiner. Applicants therefore have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 16 and have amended Claims 17 and 23 to include the limitations of Claim 1.

Examiner's Rejection of the Claims. The Examiner has made the following grounds of rejection:

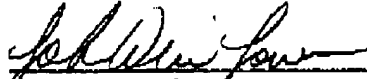
- (a) Claims 46 and 49 under the second paragraph of 35 USC § 112;
- (b) Claims 1-5, 8-12, 14-15, 18-21, 27-31, 45, 46, 49, 50, 51 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,465,792 ("*Dawson*");
- (c) Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dawson* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,123,159 ("*Brookey*");
- (d) Claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dawson* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,532,052 ("*Weaver*");
- (e) Claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dawson* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,630,679 ("*Reeves*");
- (f) Claims 33 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over *Dawson* in view of *Reeves*; and
- (g) Claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being over *Dawson* and *Reeves* and further in view of *Weaver*.

The necessity for discussion of these rejections has been rendered moot by the amendment to the claims.

Conclusions. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

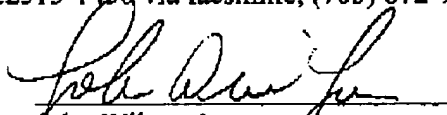
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 via facsimile, (703) 872-9306 on this 23rd day of May 2006.


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